

ONE OF FIELD'S PRANKS

HOW COMMERCIAL CLUB EXCURSIONISTS LOST THEIR SHOES.

Pile of Unclaimed Footgear, Swept Out of a Los Angeles Building Long Afterwards, Said to Be the Missing Property.

The recent trip of the Commercial Club recalls another in the early history of these excursions which Eugene Field accompanied. Field had been a reporter on one of the Kansas City papers, and being on a visit to Kansas City at the time, went along with the club.

In those days the Commercial Club traveled in sleepers attached to regular trains over most of its route, stopping over on sidetracks at the various trade centers. The party had circled around through Arkansas and Texas, and was approaching the Indian Territory from the south. They had been entertained lavishly at a Texas town one night, and Field was not in a mood for much sleep. In fact, he could do with less sleep that night.

On this occasion he had spent a greater part of the night in the smoking compartment of his car, until one by one his companions had disappeared to their berths and he was left alone.

He had smoked his cigar and, sauntering back through the car to his berth, he met the porter, who had just shined the boots of the party and was replacing them under the berth of their owners. As the gleam from a polished pair of shoes, sticking out from under the curtains of a couch occupied by a dignified bank president, met his eye, there came to his mind an idea. He went back to the smoking compartment, where he passed another hour until the porter had finished his work throughout the train, and crawled away somewhere out of sight, as porters do, for a nap on his own account.

After the Porter Had Finished.

Then Field came forth, and going through the two cars occupied by the Commercial Club party he carefully gathered up every pair of polished footgear, he passed through and deposited them in a bundle in the regular baggage car of the through train. Before daylight the two tourist cars were switched out to another road, and the baggage car, with the shoes on board, was speeding along its way over the Texas Pacific for California. The tourists slept on till 8 o'clock or after. Then one after another awoke and started dressing. Soon the question "Where are my shoes?" began to give place to a general highbly flavored discussion. The porter was called for.

Meanwhile Field's was the only bunk in the two cars from which the occupant had not been aroused. He had snored gently and serenely away beneath his pillow. But his snoring was only another proof of his adaptability. Under the rule of sleeping innocence, under such circumstances, was not too much for him. By this time the porter was thoroughly awake, under the rain of abuse from which he was smarting. Even the Presbyterian elder who stood by the door, the smiling prospector who stood solid and stolid in the face of all sorts of challenges, and the integrity of all his race. He declared he had put every pair of shoes in its place, and further than that he could give no satisfactory solution of the mystery.

General discussion of the mystery followed, during which an occasional joke was perpetrated by those optimists in the party who were disposed to make the best of a bad plight. Eventually, with the mounting sun, the spirits of the whole party rose, and general good nature again reigned. This condition was increased by the appearance of two porters, carrying sandwiches and hot coffee, that had been prepared in the baggage car. At this juncture Field's hat, which he had placed on the top of the pile of shoes, was taken down, and he found the shoes were nowhere in sight. He then turned to tell him at one and the same time of the calamity which had befallen the party. He informed that he had also included in the list of those betrayed, as his shoes were nowhere in sight. He then turned to tell him at one and the same time of the calamity which had befallen the party. He informed that he had also included in the list of those betrayed, as his shoes were nowhere in sight. He then turned to tell him at one and the same time of the calamity which had befallen the party. He informed that he had also included in the list of those betrayed, as his shoes were nowhere in sight.

For Other Footgear.

Having become resigned to their fate, the tourists now began to plan for supplying themselves with new footwear at the first stop. But they were in the "territory" where such goods as they habitually wore were scarce. The first stop was at a small town with only four general merchandise stores. Here they bought up all the manufactured shoe leather in the place—shoes, top boots, slippers, moccasins and even larger sizes of women's shoes for some of the smaller men. But even then there were not half enough to go around and those not supplied were obliged to wait until the next town should be reached, several hours later. Gradually the party was thus restored as nearly as possible to normal conditions.

But in the meantime no one noticed until late in the day, when all had become comparatively serene, and were sitting in the first remark to this effect called all eyes to a common point upon Field's feet and then all mental eyes were fastened upon his general character and reputation. He stood the seething ordeal of the "territory" with comparative ease, and when a vague suspicion had once dawned upon that trainload of business men that the American was no hope of escape.

Field never pleaded guilty, directly, although his pencil was very busy in telling the Kansas City public all the details. The victims were unmercifully bantered for weeks after their return, and when a month later word was received at the Kansas City chamber of commerce from the Los Angeles, Cal., chamber of commerce that the latter institution held for identification some 300 pairs of well polished shoes supposed to belong to Kansas City parties, the announcement was made public in the press through Field's instrumentality. The result was that not enough of the victims of Field's joke would ever come together and agree to send for their wandering property "to make a quorum," as Field expressed it, so, as no single individual could send a sufficiently detailed description of his own shoes to make it possible for his Los Angeles correspondent to identify the property desired, not a pair of shoes ever crossed "the Great Divide."

A short time ago the janitor of the Los Angeles chamber of commerce cleared out from the basement of the building an accumulation of antiquated rubbish among which were about 200 milled shoes. The man was ignorant of their history and like the trash about them they were dumped into the Arroyo Seco, or dry bed of Los Angeles river, where they await the melting snows of the Sierra Madre mountains to furnish water enough to carry them to a final resting place in the Pacific.

GEORGE HOBART WINING.

American Girls in Cuba.

From the New York Sun.

The Americans are naturally the wonder and amazement of the Santiago natives. The entire nervous system of the city is daily being shocked by the new sights and the new events since America took possession of the island. The people here are accustomed to a very formal way of speech and action. They walk as if every step were studied, and the more enlightened talk with the utmost precision. The free and easy-going way of the visitors is astounding to them. The American comes out with his hearty laugh, not caring who is around, and the dainty gentlemen look at one another in wonder.

An American girl is the most interesting of all sights to the natives. She appears in view until she has turned the corner. They stare at her, and the American woman the most wonderful of all earthly objects. The Santiago ladies, no matter how hot the day, always dress in white when they appear on the Plaza de Armas at "la tarde" for the usual evening's promenade. The people here are accustomed to a very formal way of speech and action. They walk as if every step were studied, and the more enlightened talk with the utmost precision. The free and easy-going way of the visitors is astounding to them. The American comes out with his hearty laugh, not caring who is around, and the dainty gentlemen look at one another in wonder.

An American girl is the most interesting of all sights to the natives. She appears in view until she has turned the corner. They stare at her, and the American woman the most wonderful of all earthly objects. The Santiago ladies, no matter how hot the day, always dress in white when they appear on the Plaza de Armas at "la tarde" for the usual evening's promenade. The people here are accustomed to a very formal way of speech and action. They walk as if every step were studied, and the more enlightened talk with the utmost precision. The free and easy-going way of the visitors is astounding to them. The American comes out with his hearty laugh, not caring who is around, and the dainty gentlemen look at one another in wonder.

\$50,000 WORTH OF FURNITURE, CARPETS, STOVES AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS FOR \$28,500

OUR ST. LOUIS HOUSE BOUGHT OUT THE ENTIRE STOCK OF THE

RELIABLE FURNITURE AND CARPET CO.

FORMERLY AT 1128 AND 1130 OLIVE STREET, ST. LOUIS, MO.

At 57 Cents on the Dollar!

One-half of This Stock Has Been Shipped Here. It Embraces a Full and Complete Line of Furniture, Carpets, Stoves and General Household Goods of All Kinds, and From the Cheapest to the very Finest

TO-MORROW MORNING WE WILL OPEN OUR NEW STORE

WITH A SALE OF THESE GOODS, AND THERE WILL SURELY BE

A FEAST OF BARAINS FOR THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC.

Clipping from Kansas City Journal of February 12th.

My marriage was a success. I was with all my interesting family and friends for three more Sundays.

GOES TO MAY, STERN & CO.

Stock of the Reliable Furniture Co. Sold-Will Go to Kansas City.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Feb. 11.—The stock of the Reliable Furniture Company, of this city, amounting to \$50,000, has been purchased by May, Stern & Co., at about 50 cents on the dollar. One-half of it will be shipped at once to the Kansas City house of May, Stern & Co., to be placed on sale there. There were a number of competitors for the stock, which was all new and very choice, and the purchase is regarded here as a very fortunate one for May, Stern & Co.

FRENCH KLEPTOMANIAS

WARDROBES.

Double Wardrobes, Reliably Price, \$5.00; Sale Price, \$3.98

Solid Oak Wardrobes, Reliably Price, \$6.00; Sale Price, \$6.50

Nicely finished Wardrobe, Reliably Price, \$12.50; Sale Price, \$9.00

Highly Polished Wardrobes, Reliably Price, \$16.00; Sale Price, \$12.00

ROMAN CHAIRS.

Polished Hall Chairs, Reliably Price, \$2.50; Sale Price, \$2.50

Fancy Arm Chairs, Reliably Price, \$3.50; Sale Price, \$3.25

Old Parlor Chairs, Reliably Price, \$4.25; Sale Price, \$2.25

BED-ROOM SETS.

Bedroom Sets, three pieces, 20x24 Glass, Reliably Price, \$14.00; Sale Price, \$9.50

Solid Oak Bedroom Sets, Reliably Price, \$20.00; Sale Price, \$14.00

Bedroom Sets, with large French plate mirrors, Reliably Price, \$35.00; Sale Price, \$21.00

Handsomely carved Bedroom Sets, Reliably Price, \$50.00; Sale Price, \$32.00

IRON BEDS.

Full size Iron Beds, Reliably Price, \$3.25; Sale Price, \$1.98

Iron Beds, best make, Reliably Price, \$5.00; Sale Price, \$3.75

New handsome designs in iron beds, Reliably Price, \$10.00; Sale Price, \$6.50

Iron Beds, Reliably Price, \$10.00; Sale Price, \$9.50

EXTENSION TABLES.

Six-foot Extension Tables, antique finish, Reliably Price, \$3.50; Sale Price, \$1.85

Pillar Extension Tables, Reliably Price, \$5.50; Sale Price, \$3.75

Eight-foot Pillar Extension Table, Reliably Price, \$9.00; Sale Price, \$5.75

Handsomely Carved Extension Tables, Reliably Price, \$15.00; Sale Price, \$8.50

COUCHES.

Damask Covered Couches, deep tufted, Reliably Price, \$3.98; Sale Price, \$3.98

Corduroy Covered Couches, Reliably Price, \$7.50; Sale Price, \$6.50

Roll Head Corduroy Couches, Reliably Price, \$11.00; Sale Price, \$7.50

Large size Corduroy Couches, Reliably Price, \$18.00; Sale Price, \$10.50



Half the Goods from The Reliable Furniture Co.'s Big Building Now on Sale at Our Store.

CARPETS.

Velvet Carpets, nice designs, Reliably Price, \$1.25; Sale Price, 85c

Brussels Carpets, new goods, Reliably Price, 65c; Sale Price, 45c

Brussels Carpets, the kind the Reliable sold for 50c, Reliably Price, 65c; Sale Price, 65c

Ingrain Carpets, heavy goods, Reliably Price, 40c; Sale Price, 25c

RUGS.

42-inch Brussels Rugs, Reliably Price, \$1.50; Sale Price, 75c

Room size Brussels Rugs, Reliably Price, \$17.50; Sale Price, \$11.75

Room size Ingrain Rugs, Reliably Price, \$27.50; Sale Price, \$7.50

Fine Axminster Rugs, Room size, Reliably Price, \$38.00; Sale Price, \$21.50

FOLDING BEDS.

Mantel Folding Beds, silk tapestry, Reliably Price, \$14.00; Sale Price, \$8.75

Solid Oak Mantel Beds, with mirrors, Reliably Price, \$19.00; Sale Price, \$14.00

Upright Folding Beds, Reliably Price, \$22.50; Sale Price, \$16.50

Iron Folding Beds, with metal springs, Reliably Price, \$15.00; Sale Price, \$9.50

SIDEBOARDS.

Solid Oak Sideboards, Reliably Price, \$12.00; Sale Price, \$6.98

Fine finished Sideboards, Reliably Price, \$18.00; Sale Price, \$11.50

Sideboards with large French plate mirrors, Reliably Price, \$25.00; Sale Price, \$16.00

Richly Carved Sideboards, Reliably Price, \$40.00; Sale Price, \$25.00

BOOKCASES.

Combination Bookcases, solid oak, Reliably Price, \$12.00; Sale Price, \$6.75

Combination Bookcases, solid oak or mahogany, Reliably Price, \$16.00; Sale Price, \$10.50

Richly Carved Bookcases, any finish, Reliably Price, \$21.00; Sale Price, \$14.00

Large and elegant Bookcases, Reliably Price, \$32.00; Sale Price, \$20.00

PARLOR SUITS.

Six-piece Parlor Suits, plush covering, Reliably Price, \$27.00; Sale Price, \$17.50

Six-piece Parlor Suits, brocade covering, Reliably Price, \$25.00; Sale Price, \$25.00

Three-piece Parlor Suits, fancy designs, Reliably Price, \$22.00; Sale Price, \$14.75

Five-piece Parlor Suits, very rich and elegant, Reliably Price, \$35.00; Sale Price, \$35.00

BIG BARGAINS IN

ODDS AND ENDS.

Fancy Cocker Seat Rockers, Reliably Price, \$1.75; Sale Price, \$1.68

Cane Seat Rockers, high back, Reliably Price, \$1.00; Sale Price, 59c

Cook Stoves, No. 7, Reliably Price, \$5.00; Sale Price, \$4.75

Hat Racks, solid oak, Reliably Price, \$5.50; Sale Price, \$3.75

Bed Lounges, plush covering, Reliably Price, \$10.50; Sale Price, \$6.50

Mahogany finished Pedestals, Reliably Price, \$3.50; Sale Price, \$1.75

CASH or CREDIT.

S.W. COR. ELEVENTH AND MAIN STS.

CASH or CREDIT.

NUBAR PACHA.

Egypt's Grand Old Man, Who Recently Died in Paris—Remarkable Politician.

"Egypt's Grand Old Man," Nubar Pacha, the former president of the Egyptian council of ministers, died in Paris recently.

Nubar Pacha was one of the most remarkable men of Oriental politics. Though handicapped in the struggle by his birth and religion, for he was an Armenian and a Christian, he worked his way up from a humble political appointment to the post of prime minister of Egypt, and to the dignity of a grand cross of the French Legion of Honor. Incidentally, too, he acquired great wealth.



NUBAR PACHA.

WALRUS WHISKERS, PLEASE.

"Of all the curious articles of commerce that you have ever mentioned in print I have never seen one more strange than a 'line' I regularly send to China, to the Brazils, and in very large quantities to Russia."

The speaker was a "foreign merchant" and he was addressing a contributor who has made a specialty of paragraphs dealing with out-of-the-way occupations. "The articles I refer to are toothpicks that are made of walrus whiskers. Vast quantities of the stiff, thick whiskers of the walrus are shipped from Alaska chiefly to myself, and to some others in England. Those who send them pull them out one by one with special tweezers, and after the whiskers have been trimmed and stiffened they are made up into bundles and sent abroad."

The higher class Chinese seem to use no other kind of toothpick, and the more wealthy of the Russians always use them at their clubs and hotels. I send out some thousands of bundles yearly, and though the buyer they are much dearer, as well as more ornamental, they leave plenty of profit to the dealer. They have begun to creep into strong favor at West end clubs, and last year I executed some scores of English orders."

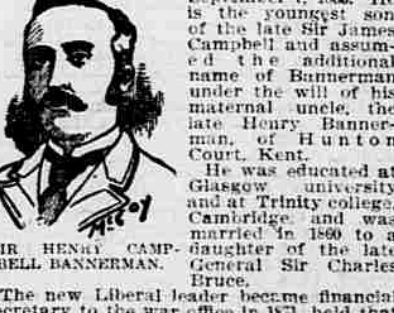
NEW LEADER OF THE LIBERALS.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman as the Successor of Harcourt.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who has been pitched upon by the British Liberals to succeed Sir William Vernon Harcourt as leader of the party, was born September 7, 1836. He is the youngest son of the late Sir James Campbell and assumed the additional name of Bannerman under the will of his maternal uncle, the late Henry Bannerman, of Huntton Court, Kent.

He was educated at Glasgow university and at Trinity college, Cambridge, and was married in 1859 to a daughter of the late General Sir Charles Bruce.

The new Liberal leader became financial secretary to the war office in 1871, held that position until 1874, was reappointed in 1880 and held the office until 1882, in which year

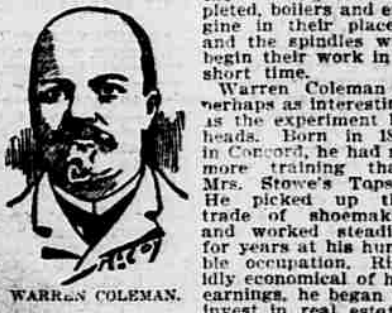


COLORED MAN'S COTTON MILL.

Most Successful Ex-Slave Will Soon Begin Manufacturing at Concord, N. C.

Some time ago Warren Coleman, a thrifty colored man of Concord, N. C., started a movement to build and operate a factory in Concord, and he has been so successful that the building is completed, boilers and engine in their places, and the spindles will begin their work in a short time.

Warren Coleman is perhaps as interesting as the experiment he heads. Born in 1830 in Concord, he had no more training than Mrs. Stowe's Topsy. He picked up the trade of shoemaker and worked steadily for years at his humble occupation. His daily economical habits, however, began to earn him, in real estate, including all of his former master's property, was decided to him.



WARREN COLEMAN.

Lucky Forethought.

"Now, I wonder what it was I meant to ask you about," mused the professor, as there came a slight pause in the conversation.

"Whether I had followed up that line of thought you spoke of a week or two ago," suggested Miss Peduncle, "about the possible cause of the lack of co-ordination sometimes observed in the action of the two hemispheres of the brain?"

"No, that was not it," said the professor, who had hitherto consulted his memory.

"What I meant to ask you this evening, Miss Peduncle, was this: Will you marry me?"

From the Jeweler's Weekly.

Mr. McCall—"That's unquestionably the finest purchase I've shewn to-day."

Miss Young—"I consider your approval very great compliment, Mr. McCall, for I'm sure you must have seen almost a hundred."